

5208



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

56 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Tel: 860-571-6191

Fax: 860-571-6190

Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 24th, 2015

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Executive Secretary- Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. I am here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state as follows:

Connecticut already has one of the highest thresholds for state projects in the country at \$100,000 for renovation projects and \$400,000 for new construction. What this means is the state's prevailing wage law does not go into effect until that threshold is met. We almost always find workers are only paid the minimum wage with no health insurance or retirement benefits on projects that do not meet the Prevailing Wage threshold, thereby driving up more costs for the State.

Changing any prevailing wage project thresholds only serves to limit the number of opportunities to earn prevailing wage on a project. It decreases opportunities for competitive bidding among contractors and limits opportunities for workers to earn a good wage while setting money aside for health care and retirement. Any changes to weaken the prevailing wage or to increase the threshold are harmful to construction workers that have just experienced an unprecedented downturn in employment and therefore oppose:

Proposed S.B. 114,188 and Proposed H.B. 5075,5079,5208,5209,5516,5613,6251,6650,6666

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Pelletier

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori J. Pelletier

PRESIDENT

Salvatore Luciano

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Melodie M. Peters

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas A. Wilkinson

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

David A. Roche

TRUSTEES

Mark A. Espinosa

Jeffrey H. Matchett

Jean M. Morningstar

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Altieri

Richard Benham

Karen Blanchard

Tammie Botelho

Beverley Brakeman

Wayne Burgess

Michael Calderon

Peter Carozza, Jr.

Peter Carroll

Carol Censki

Frank Cirillo

Everett Corey

Shellye Davis

Kenneth DeLaCruz

Michael Dennehy

Stephen Ferruzzi III

Ronald Frost

Patrick Gaynor

Richard Golambiewski

William Henderson

Juan Hernandez

Keri Hoehne

Thursa Isaac

Clarke King

Charles LeConche

Laila Mandour

Bette Marafino

John McCarthy

Richard McCombs

Stephen McKeever

Ronald McLellan

Craig Metz

Anna Montalvo

Tiana Ocasio

Warren Pepicelli

Michael Petosa

Ronald Petronella

Robert Proto

Peter Reilly

Carman Rouse

Michael Rosario

Kathleen Santiago

Patrena Smith

Barbara Smyth

Valerie Stewart

James Wallace, Jr.

Paul Wallace

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

John W. Olsen